



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE



New Zealand Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Trade
Manatū Aorere

30 November 2015

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Dear Jackson Wood

I refer to your email of 2 November 2015 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

"... I would like to request any and all documents, correspondence, advice, or information the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and trade has prepared, sent, or received on, or about, Pandas since 1 January 2010.

Of specific importance would be any documents, correspondence, advice or information prepared for, sent to, or received from: the Prime Minister and/or his office, Wellington City Council, the Minister of Defence and/or his office, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

I would also like to be provided with answers to the following questions:

1) At any time since November 2008 has MFAT been involved in any negotiations with the Chinese Government relating to Pandas?

2) Has MFAT been consulted by any of the following about obtaining Pandas:

- the Prime Minister*
- the Prime Minister's office*
- the Minister of Defence*
- the Minister of Defence's office, or*
- the Wellington City Council*

3) Does MFAT have a policy so-called "Panda Diplomacy"?

4) What possible implications are there for New Zealand's foreign policy in pursuing Pandas for a New Zealand zoo?"

This letter advises that due to the necessity for further consultation, we will need to extend the time limit for responding to you by 20 working days, to 19 January. It is possible however, that even with this extension, we may be unable to release material that will enable us to answer your request.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joana Johnston', written in a cursive style.

Joana Johnston
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade